



---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, contact:  
Mike Gowrylow  
(360) 705-6603

***Biggest Percentage Gain since 1990***

**Taxable Retail Sales Increase 10.3 Percent During First Quarter 2006**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.**, July 25, 2006 — Taxable retail sales surged 10.3 percent during the first quarter of 2006, posting the greatest percentage gain in 16 years.

Sales by Washington businesses surpassed \$24.3 billion during the January through March period, a \$2.3 billion increase over the first quarter of 2005.

It was the greatest percentage increase since sales rose 10.9 percent during the second quarter of 1990.

Retail trade was up 9 percent during the first quarter of 2006 to \$10.9 billion. Retail trade tracks sales at retail outlets and excludes such volatile sectors as construction. Construction sales were up 19.3 percent to \$4.5 billion.

Sales by restaurants, food services and drinking places rose 7.9 percent to \$1.9 billion during the quarter following the voter-approved ban on smoking in public places. The building materials, garden equipment and supplies sector was up 11.1 percent to \$1.1 billion. Sales by new and used auto dealers increased 4.3 percent to \$2.3 billion.

Among the most populous counties, King County was up 10.5 percent to \$9.7 billion; Pierce County was up 9.1 percent to \$2.7 billion; Snohomish County was up 13.8 percent to \$2.4 billion; and Spokane County was up 9.6 percent to \$1.6 billion. Clark County was up 11.1 percent to \$1.1 billion.

Among cities with the greatest sales, Seattle was up 12.4 percent to \$3.5 billion; Bellevue was up 6.4 percent at \$1.1 billion; Tacoma was up 10 percent to \$1 billion; and Spokane was up 9.2 percent at \$825.9 million. Everett, Kent and Vancouver were close in overall sales at \$614.8 million, \$612.1 million and \$605.1 million, respectively. Kent's growth rate stood out at 22 percent, compared to 20.6 percent for Everett and 11.5 percent for Vancouver.

Complete results for all counties and selected cities, including breakdowns of sales by industry sector, are available online at <http://dor.wa.gov/content/statistics/2006/qbr106/default.aspx>. Figures for all cities are at <http://dor.wa.gov/content/statistics/TID/StatisticsReports.aspx?query=qbrnaics>.

## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY COUNTY

	All Taxable Retail Sales*			Retail Trade Only**		
	1st Quarter 2005	1st Quarter 2006	Change	1st Quarter 2005	1st Quarter 2006	Change
Adams	35,458,314	36,721,013	3.6%	12,098,293	12,562,175	3.8%
Asotin	36,376,755	38,719,502	6.4%	18,695,144	18,734,788	0.2%
Benton	508,112,565	506,109,361	-0.4%	257,379,695	255,779,529	-0.6%
Chelan	243,120,530	263,912,123	8.6%	118,674,674	125,664,009	5.9%
Clallam	209,454,573	223,566,810	6.7%	101,622,010	107,112,701	5.4%
Clark	995,355,991	1,105,881,318	11.1%	419,458,400	456,443,794	8.8%
Columbia	5,901,550	6,845,361	16.0%	1,780,080	2,179,825	22.5%
Cowlitz	279,443,766	295,953,597	5.9%	146,118,820	160,553,074	9.9%
Douglas	72,466,768	82,818,858	14.3%	41,810,810	45,701,727	9.3%
Ferry	6,180,898	6,393,496	3.4%	2,483,078	2,420,305	-2.5%
Franklin	201,664,743	199,976,123	-0.8%	84,955,560	86,400,716	1.7%
Garfield	3,228,420	3,424,519	6.1%	1,607,518	1,421,587	-11.6%
Grant	176,981,855	218,628,651	23.5%	83,526,975	91,585,662	9.6%
Grays Harbor	170,117,946	186,809,973	9.8%	83,481,153	89,992,028	7.8%
Island	168,196,218	182,465,218	8.5%	67,880,099	77,173,053	13.7%
Jefferson	78,411,942	79,440,060	1.3%	24,500,482	26,375,924	7.7%
King	8,781,264,434	9,703,202,556	10.5%	3,536,373,835	3,904,227,555	10.4%
Kitsap	694,310,250	773,622,231	11.4%	373,097,303	408,934,859	9.6%
Kittitas	115,886,303	130,989,783	13.0%	41,333,676	47,004,070	13.7%
Klickitat	25,937,763	28,742,337	10.8%	6,561,076	7,745,784	18.1%
Lewis	209,883,774	250,190,458	19.2%	103,726,565	111,731,648	7.7%
Lincoln	14,748,025	14,884,266	0.9%	5,066,470	5,178,135	2.2%
Mason	98,413,171	110,736,111	12.5%	43,541,668	49,940,992	14.7%
Okanagan	70,030,290	80,028,197	14.3%	35,836,125	38,149,758	6.5%
Pacific	35,714,081	42,498,177	19.0%	11,951,850	12,800,467	7.1%
Pend Oreille	14,034,900	15,888,787	13.2%	4,418,765	4,840,442	9.5%
Pierce	2,496,210,648	2,724,288,927	9.1%	1,228,794,349	1,332,297,669	8.4%
San Juan	67,097,651	68,621,437	2.3%	16,315,540	18,122,340	11.1%
Skagit	475,577,278	522,007,011	9.8%	268,913,745	279,733,565	4.0%
Skamania	16,735,015	16,098,856	-3.8%	2,762,357	3,588,705	29.9%
Snohomish	2,084,400,070	2,371,728,777	13.8%	1,034,076,404	1,177,617,574	13.9%
Spokane	1,416,756,955	1,553,445,853	9.6%	722,798,034	773,843,141	7.1%
Stevens	58,618,619	63,891,841	9.0%	30,557,392	34,991,548	14.5%
Thurston	792,902,998	871,638,536	9.9%	385,641,269	414,049,693	7.4%
Wahkiakum	4,668,104	4,924,053	5.5%	1,123,436	957,462	-14.8%
Walla Walla	134,889,501	156,382,644	15.9%	60,000,708	62,533,019	4.2%
Whatcom	604,812,394	678,096,952	12.1%	289,573,437	308,862,249	6.7%
Whitman	80,635,685	83,616,060	3.7%	30,111,519	32,226,470	7.0%
Yakima	557,949,458	601,749,169	7.9%	272,163,956	281,055,993	3.3%

TOTALS                    \$22,041,950,201      \$24,304,939,002      10.3%      \$9,970,812,270      \$10,870,534,035      9.0%

\*All taxable retail sales includes retailing, services, contracting (construction), manufacturing, transportation, communications, utilities, wholesaling, finance, insurance, real estate and others.

\*\*Retail Trade includes taxable sales of building materials and hardware, general merchandise, food, auto dealers, apparel, furnishings, eating/drinking places, and miscellaneous retail stores. This figure better represents consumer purchases.

## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES BY SELECTED CITIES

	All Taxable Retail Sales*			Retail Trade Only**		
	1st Quarter 2005	1st Quarter 2006	Change	1st Quarter 2005	1st Quarter 2006	Change
Aberdeen	85,422,408	98,973,536	15.9%	57,692,792	60,667,797	5.2%
Auburn	385,302,174	408,316,261	6.0%	189,276,278	200,687,278	6.0%
Bellevue	1,057,592,019	1,125,322,489	6.4%	506,042,182	563,684,209	11.4%
Bellingham	415,342,706	455,773,888	9.7%	230,273,830	245,695,531	6.7%
Bremerton	161,109,550	174,995,702	8.6%	92,547,310	94,340,623	1.9%
Camas	32,154,033	38,460,443	19.6%	9,014,386	9,411,591	4.4%
Centralia	58,689,076	62,529,340	6.5%	29,240,181	28,853,216	-1.3%
Chehalis	80,650,036	101,028,892	25.3%	51,069,963	60,443,118	18.4%
Colville	31,960,051	35,950,478	12.5%	21,533,162	24,716,100	14.8%
Des Moines	47,339,245	45,131,843	-4.7%	14,694,315	14,626,897	-0.5%
Edmonds	120,718,734	130,417,624	8.0%	59,381,318	64,496,421	8.6%
Ellensburg	78,020,946	77,298,632	-0.9%	32,766,590	35,940,503	9.7%
Everett	509,853,978	614,802,919	20.6%	258,832,940	291,442,126	12.6%
Federal Way	276,902,194	307,825,031	11.2%	147,241,376	159,308,335	8.2%
Fife	183,270,014	204,018,059	11.3%	121,008,212	124,892,655	3.2%
Issaquah	248,703,590	273,651,458	10.0%	128,116,623	143,407,452	11.9%
Kelso	48,159,124	49,754,370	3.3%	27,270,773	29,323,466	7.5%
Kennewick	290,503,312	292,805,079	0.8%	174,618,699	175,482,237	0.5%
Kent	501,652,160	612,075,327	22.0%	206,156,257	270,171,496	31.1%
Kirkland	365,063,058	395,433,400	8.3%	177,557,926	188,614,654	6.2%
Lacey	163,760,285	191,476,254	16.9%	78,918,517	92,791,612	17.6%
Longview	154,753,222	177,598,772	14.8%	93,351,848	106,459,864	14.0%
Lynnwood	446,599,056	481,252,910	7.8%	291,422,958	315,234,137	8.2%
Marysville	108,390,162	127,946,141	18.0%	47,558,466	51,645,528	8.6%
Mercer Island	60,938,595	68,359,850	12.2%	10,424,549	11,157,273	7.0%
Moses Lake	94,983,576	105,068,185	10.6%	52,802,328	58,209,219	10.2%
Mount Vernon	114,506,582	148,686,217	29.8%	60,836,955	78,304,597	28.7%
Mountlake Terrace	34,036,389	36,510,428	7.3%	12,551,959	14,358,394	14.4%
Oak Harbor	74,587,149	78,047,411	4.6%	38,591,403	44,887,594	16.3%
Olympia	381,390,156	417,742,905	9.5%	215,041,702	225,973,329	5.1%
Omak	26,244,835	28,081,274	7.0%	18,303,073	18,810,553	2.8%
Pasco	185,613,190	182,589,001	-1.6%	81,549,059	81,902,127	0.4%
Port Angeles	73,977,547	79,485,887	7.4%	30,254,168	32,541,712	7.6%
Port Townsend	39,418,783	36,598,530	-7.2%	12,671,774	13,383,790	5.6%
Pullman	60,353,235	63,039,916	4.5%	23,415,982	25,419,320	8.6%
Puyallup	379,005,502	407,002,363	7.4%	249,683,520	265,160,846	6.2%
Redmond	403,597,900	459,753,202	13.9%	149,932,719	158,550,484	5.7%
Renton	441,151,590	477,106,202	8.2%	241,297,170	266,229,460	10.3%
Richland	145,766,444	163,537,938	12.2%	65,524,823	65,195,266	-0.5%
SeaTac	204,910,902	210,376,567	2.7%	16,727,777	21,209,962	26.8%
Seattle	3,110,632,450	3,497,034,013	12.4%	1,034,427,687	1,139,720,561	10.2%
Shelton	43,225,385	44,224,453	2.3%	23,481,193	25,344,023	7.9%
Spokane	756,372,800	825,948,034	9.2%	372,118,820	395,244,821	6.2%
Sunnyside	49,848,502	54,735,360	9.8%	27,841,937	28,121,939	1.0%
Tacoma	933,433,870	1,027,202,625	10.0%	456,195,377	490,519,042	7.5%
Tukwila	427,732,336	452,041,921	5.7%	258,986,407	268,626,387	3.7%
Vancouver	542,857,148	605,080,756	11.5%	245,622,373	255,885,135	4.2%
Walla Walla	95,569,051	113,260,196	18.5%	43,472,239	44,704,895	2.8%
Wenatchee	153,606,877	164,641,218	7.2%	84,391,561	91,685,104	8.6%
Yakima	306,753,810	329,538,439	7.4%	155,478,363	160,911,957	3.5%